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**NOTICE: Division of Professional Licensure Announces Implementation of
Statutory Changes Modernizing Agency Operations**

November 4, 2014

The Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) is pleased to announce the implementation of provisions of [Chapter 236 of the Acts of 2014](#). The new law, which is the result of legislation proposed by Governor Deval Patrick, makes a number of changes to the various laws that had established and governed the professional licensing boards under DPL supervision. The changes streamline and improve the operations and business processes of the boards and the agency to benefit licensees and the public.

The following changes take effect on November 4, 2014:

- **Elimination of the Board of Registration of Radio and Television Technicians:** The Board of Registration of Radio and Television Technicians, which over the years licensed a declining number of radio and television repair technicians and handled a declining number of consumer complaints, is eliminated. Licenses previously issued by the Board, including master technician licenses, apprentice technician licenses, and learners permits, are no longer are required and will not be renewed. Former licensees seeking to become licensed in other states may obtain a [license verification form](#) from DPL staff if required by the new jurisdiction.
- **Cap on License Reinstatement Fees:** To facilitate the re-entry of former licensees back into the workforce, license reinstatement fees are now capped at the cost of license renewal for two licensing cycles, plus one late fee. Former licensees seeking to have their license reinstated are advised that they still will be required to satisfy all other renewal requirements specific to their license, including the completion of required continuing education credits (if applicable) or examinations. Licensees seeking information on current renewal fees and deadlines should consult the “[Fees and License Renewal Schedules](#)” tool available on DPL’s website, www.mass.gov/dpl.
- **Standardization of Board Meeting Quorum Requirements:** To facilitate board meetings, the fixed-number quorum requirements found in the statutes establishing five of the DPL boards are replaced with a uniform requirement: a simple majority of board seats. This change is in alignment with Open Meeting Law guidance issued by the Attorney General’s Office and will allow DPL boards to operate free of the quorum restrictions previously imposed by statute. DPL boards affected by this change are: Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and of Land Surveyors; Board of Registration of



Hearing Instrument Specialists; Board of Registration of Landscape Architects; Board of Real Estate Appraisers; and Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

- **Composition of the Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology:** A statutory requirement that four of the five members of the Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology be appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Massachusetts Speech and Hearing Association, Inc. is eliminated. Now, potential candidates can [apply directly](#) for available positions. This change will enhance DPL's recruitment efforts and create new public service opportunities for licensees and other qualified candidates interested in serving on the Board.
- **Composition of the Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Directing:** A requirement that each member of the Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Directing reside in different geographic areas of the state is replaced by a requirement that at least four of the five Board members reside outside of Suffolk County. This change will allow DPL to recruit future Board members from a more diverse pool of candidates.
- **Composition of the Board of Real Estate Appraisers:** Requirements that one of the three real estate appraiser members of the Board of Real Estate Appraisers be an assessor, and that there be at least one assessor member holding a "state-licensed" classification, have been eliminated. In place of these requirements, the law now requires that at least one Board member be a "certified residential" appraiser, and that at least one other Board member be a "certified general" real estate appraiser. This change also will allow DPL to recruit future Board members from a more diverse pool of candidates.

In addition to the more significant changes mentioned above, the new law amends other outdated provisions in the laws establishing the boards: eliminating language purporting to authorize some boards to hire staff and receive compensation; eliminating unnecessary reporting requirements; eliminating unnecessary license roster mailing requirements for the Board of Registration of Architects; and eliminating a requirement that the Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters obtain approval from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regarding regulations governing plumbing and gas fitting work on state property. As a result of an amendment filed during the legislative process, the new law also directs the Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Directing to promulgate regulations allowing funeral establishments to serve food and beverages.

The preceding provisions of the new law take effect on November 4, 2014. Other provisions of the law, including the creation of a new Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering to replace the Board of Registration of Barbers, the Board of Registration of Cosmetology, and the Board of Registration of Electrologists, do not take effect until May 4, 2015. A separate notice announcing the implementation of those provisions will be issued at that time.

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